

Surface structure of $i\text{-Al}_{68}\text{Pd}_{23}\text{Mn}_9$: An analysis based on the $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ tiling decorated by Bergman polytopes

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A Fibonacci-like terrace structure along a 5fold axis of $i\text{-Al}_{68}\text{Pd}_{23}\text{Mn}_9$ monograins has been observed by T.M. Schaub et al. with scanning tunnelling microscopy (STM). In the planes of the terraces they see patterns of dark pentagonal holes. These holes are well oriented both within and among terraces. In one of 11 planes Schaub et al. obtain the autocorrelation function of the hole pattern. We interpret these experimental findings in terms of the Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model. Following the suggestion of Elser that the Bergman clusters are the dominant motive of this model, we decorate the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ by the Bergman polytopes only. The tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ allows us to use the powerful tools of the projection techniques. The Bergman polytopes can be easily replaced by the Mackay polytopes as the decoration objects. We derive a picture of “geared” layers of Bergman polytopes from the projection techniques as well as from a huge patch. Under the assumption that no surface reconstruction takes place, this picture explains the Fibonacci-sequence of the step heights as well as the related structure in the terraces qualitatively and to certain extent even quantitatively. Furthermore, this layer-picture requires that the polytopes are cut in order to allow for the observed step heights. We conclude that Bergman or Mackay clusters have to be considered as geometric building blocks of the $i\text{-AlPdMn}$ structure rather than as energetically stable entities.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The surface of $i\text{-Al}_{68}\text{Pd}_{23}\text{Mn}_9$ perpendicular to 5fold axes of an icosahedron has been explored in various papers, and terraces similar to netplanes in crystals have been observed¹. Schaub et al.¹ obtained by scanning tunnelling microscopy (STM) atomic scale direct space information and low-energy electron diffraction (LEED) patterns of the sputtered and annealed quasicrystalline surface. The dynamical LEED study of Gierer et al.² of a similarly prepared surface confirmed the quasicrystalline structure and yielded additional structural information allowing an identification of the possible surface layers in terms of the bulk structure model by de Boissieu et al.³.

A second STM study of in-situ cleaved surfaces by Ebert et al.⁴ revealed terraces only after annealing of the initially rather rough surface.

For the bulk structure of $i\text{-AlPdMn}$ there exists a model due to de Boissieu et al.³ which was generalised by Elser⁵ into the model that we refer to as the Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model^{5,6}. In order to obtain a geometric description, we consider the Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model as a model for the *atomic positions*, independently of the particular chemical identity of the atoms (Al, Pd, or Mn) occupying these positions.

Therefore, all our conclusions will be valid for both, the de Boissieu-Boudard model³ and the Elser model⁵ with the particular decoration of the atomic positions by Al, Pd, and Mn from the Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model. The Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model consists of alternating Bergman and Mackay polytopes⁵. Elser proposed that the Bergman polytopes are not only *geometric clusters* but should also be considered as *energetically stable clusters*. Our considerations are testing the conjecture.

We interpret the Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model as the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ ⁷ decorated by Bergman polytopes and some other, additional atomic positions (see⁸ and Section III) forming Mackay polytopes. As suggested by Elser⁵, the dominant motives on this tiling model are dodecahedral Bergman clusters. We adopt this suggestion (neglecting the additional atomic positions) and examine the layer stacking and the structure within planes perpendicular to a 5fold axis. We compare the qualitative and quantitative predictions of the planar structure of the bulk model with the experimental findings at the surface¹.

The model analysis is made in terms of a patch of

the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)9}$ in 10^{th} step of inflation decorated by Bergman polytopes. This method allows to generate the relevant planar structure orthogonal to a 5fold direction. By the method of lifting we can relate the planar patch structure in \mathbb{IE}_{\parallel} to the relevant triacontahedral window in \mathbb{IE}_{\perp} with its coding substructure for the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ and find in it the coding for the planes. An alternative approach to the terrace structure starting from the window side is given in Ref.¹¹.

II. EXPERIMENT

The terrace-structure of the i-Al₆₈Pd₂₃Mn₉ monograin has been observed by STM¹. The terraces orthogonal to the 5fold axis are placed on Fibonacci distances with the short (low) interval $L=4.22\pm0.26\text{\AA}$ and long (high) interval $H=6.78\pm0.24\text{\AA}$. The planes (as terraces) occur in the sequence H H L H H L H L H H, see Figure 1.

In each plane there are dark pentagons (pentagonal holes) oriented parallel to each other, both in a terrace and among the terraces¹. In the terraces there are also white 5-stars with 5 dark pentagons between the star-arms, see Figure 2. In each plane one can draw lines through the structure such that they are on Fibonacci distances, short (narrow) $N=7.17\pm0.08\text{\AA}$ and long (wide) $W=11.6\pm0.13\text{\AA}$. The short interval N equals the height of the pentagonal holes.

The Patterson distribution function of the pentagonal holes in the biggest terrace No. 8 has been determined, see Figure 3.

III. GEOMETRIC MODEL FOR THE ATOMIC POSITIONS

In order to see if the Katz–Gratias–de Boissieu–Elser model^{5,6} of i-AlPdMn³ can explain the terrace structure, we consider this atomic model (in the formulation by Elser⁵), interpreted in terms of the canonical tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)7}$, see Figure 4.

The tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ is related to the primitive tiling \mathcal{T}^{P7} by converting only the tetrahedra G^* (G_{\parallel}^*) and F^* (F_{\parallel}^*) into acute and obtuse rhombohedra, respectively. The vertices of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ then coincide with the *even vertices* (even index sum) of the primitive tiling.

In the decoration of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$, Bergman polytopes (clusters) are centred⁸ at the *odd vertices* (odd index sum) of the primitive tiling, which are *not* vertices of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$. It turns out that at least some pentagonal faces of each Bergman polytope (essentially a dodecahedron) appear in the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ inscribed in the faces Σ_2^* ($\Sigma_{2\parallel}^*$) and Σ_3^* ($\Sigma_{3\parallel}^*$) of the tetrahedra, as shown in Figure 5 on an example of G^* and F^* tetrahedra. Σ_2^* and Σ_3^* are equilateral golden triangles *orthogonal* to the

5fold symmetry axes of an icosahedron. They are described in Section III A together with other geometric properties of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$.

A. The planar structure of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$

We start with a description of the window in \mathbb{IE}_{\perp} for the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ and its coding content. The window for the tiling is a triacontahedron. Our aim is to look for a possible coding of the planes orthogonal to a 5fold direction of an icosahedron, that appear as a Fibonacci sequence on mutual distances as observed in the experiment¹. These planes should contain the quasilattice points of $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$. With respect to a fixed 5fold axis, we slice the triacontahedron into ten perpendicular zones of five types (1, 2, ... 5) as shown in Figure 6. The thickness of unions of these zones is:

$$1 = +1 \cup -1 = \pm 1 \equiv x = \left(\frac{2}{\tau+2}\right) \textcircled{5}$$

$$\pm 1 \cup \pm 2 = 1 \cup 2 = \tau x$$

$$\pm 1 \cup \pm 2 \cup \pm 3 = 1 \cup 2 \cup 3 = \tau^2 x$$

$$\pm 1 \cup \pm 2 \cup \pm 3 \cup \pm 4 = 1 \cup 2 \cup 3 \cup 4 = \tau^3 x.$$

The symbol $\textcircled{5}$ is the standard distance $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ along a direction parallel to a 5fold symmetry axis of an icosahedron, $\tau = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$. The symbol $\textcircled{2}$ is the standard distance $\sqrt{\frac{2}{\tau+2}}$ along a direction parallel to a 2fold symmetry axis of an icosahedron; the relation in length to the standard $\textcircled{5}$ is : $\textcircled{2} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\tau+2}} \textcircled{5}$.

Considering the thickness of zones and their combinations we look for windows that would be necessary to code Fibonacci sequences of planes perpendicular to the 5fold axis. The decagonal middle zone of type 1 (decagonal prism) is the window⁷ for the canonical planar tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(A_4)}$ by two golden triangles¹⁰. This fact has been denoted as the dissectability of the $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ into planar subtilings $\mathcal{T}^{*(A_4)7}$. The thickness x of the zone 1 (the decagonal prism) allows, as a necessary condition, for coding a Fibonacci sequence of planes with mutual distances in \mathbb{IE}_{\parallel} $s \equiv s_{\parallel} = \tau^3 \left(\frac{2}{\tau+2}\right) \textcircled{5}$ and $l \equiv l_{\parallel} = \tau s$

$$x = |s_{\perp}| + |l_{\perp}|,$$

where x is to be understood as a window⁹. The thicknesses for the unions of the zones $1 \cup 2$, $1 \cup 2 \cup 3$ and $1 \cup 2 \cup 3 \cup 4$ scale this window by up to three powers of τ . Consequently they may code the Fibonacci sequences of planes in \mathbb{IE}_{\parallel} three times inflated, respectively. The final sequence consists of mutual distances $s = \left(\frac{2}{\tau+2}\right) \textcircled{5}$ and $l = \tau s$.

The significance of the zones in the tiling is related to their content of windows for geometric objects other than quasilattice points: the 1D edges of the tiling have as windows the perpendicular projections of dual 5-boundaries, and the faces of the tiling the perpendicular projections of dual 4-boundaries. We consider the edges and the

faces of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ in the planes perpendicular to a fixed direction of a 5fold axes. They are coded by the corresponding dual boundaries related to the same 5fold axes in \mathbf{IE}_\perp . In these planes there can appear only two of four kinds of faces of the tiling, the golden triangles $\Sigma_{2\parallel}^*$ and $\Sigma_{3\parallel}^*$. They are equilateral triangles with one edge $\tau\textcircled{2}$ and two edges $\textcircled{2}$, and one edge $\textcircled{2}$ and two edges $\tau\textcircled{2}$, respectively. They are coded by the 4-boundaries projected to \mathbf{IE}_\perp , $\Sigma_{2\perp}$ and $\Sigma_{3\perp}$ respectively⁷. Similarly the short edge $\textcircled{2} = \Omega_{1\parallel}$ and the long edge $\tau\textcircled{2} = \Omega_{2\parallel}$ of these two triangles have the windows $\Omega_{1\perp}$ and $\Omega_{2\perp}$ respectively⁷. All the points of these projected dual boundaries, related to the particular 5fold direction, are located within the triacontahedron and moreover inside the union $1\cup 2\cup 3\cup 4$ and not in the zone 5. From their intersections with the first decagonal prism we get the full coding for the triangle pattern $\mathcal{T}^{*(A_4)}$ in \mathbf{IE}_\parallel . For the zones 2, 3 and 4 outside the decagonal prism we expect in \mathbf{IE}_\parallel a gradual reduction in the density of triangle faces and edges, due to the disappearance of their coding in the zones. We also expect qualitative differences in the pattern in the planes of different types. Finally in the zone 5 we expect no such triangles and edges. These reductions should go along with a reduction of the density of quasilattice points for the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$.

Here we do not prove the sufficient condition for the existence of Fibonacci sequences of planes. In Ref.¹¹ we identify the vectors which generate this Fibonacci sequence. Instead we check our expectations based on the necessary conditions from the side of the window on the finite patch in \mathbf{IE}_\parallel obtained by the inflation procedure for the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ ⁹. We inspect a 10-step inflation patch. We cut the patch of $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ in \mathbf{IE}_\parallel by planes orthogonal to the 5fold direction whenever there is a quasilattice point. There appear 318 planes on three mutual distances: $\tau^{-1}\left(\frac{2}{\tau+2}\right)\textcircled{5}$, $\left(\frac{2}{\tau+2}\right)\textcircled{5}$ and $\tau\left(\frac{2}{\tau+2}\right)\textcircled{5}$. The patch construction will allow us to simulate in detail the planar structure and its sequence and to compare it with experimental findings¹.

At the same time we wish to keep track of the coding window structure described above. For this purpose we pass to \mathbf{IE}_\perp by the unique procedure of lifting the quasilattice points of the patch into the triacontahedral window. The points within each plane of \mathbf{IE}_\parallel perpendicular to a 5fold axis are lifted into an intersection of the triacontahedron with a plane shifted along and perpendicular to the corresponding 5axis in \mathbf{IE}_\perp . From the shift (with respect to the center of all the points of the patch) we assign to each plane one of the ten zones ± 1 , ± 2 , ± 3 , ± 4 , ± 5 of the triacontahedron introduced before. In the generated patch there appear 5 families of planes in \mathbf{IE}_\parallel , corresponding to the ten zones of 5 types in \mathbf{IE}_\perp : The decagonal prism yields the densest planes with the golden triangle tiling. The zones 2, 3 and 4 give planes still containing golden triangles (and edges) of the triangle tiling. In contrast, the planes in \mathbf{IE}_\parallel of the type 5 in \mathbf{IE}_\perp contain only points of the quasilattice but neither

edges nor faces (see Figure 7).

In the patch, there are 234 planes of the types $1\cup 2\cup 3\cup 4$ and they do appear in a Fibonacci sequence with a short s and a long l spacing. As expected $s \equiv s_\parallel = \left(\frac{2}{\tau+2}\right)\textcircled{5}$, $l \equiv l_\parallel = \tau\left(\frac{2}{\tau+2}\right)\textcircled{5}$; $|s_\perp| + |l_\perp| = \tau^3 x$, where $\tau^3 x$ is the thickness of the window for the Fibonacci spacing. Also the types $1\cup 2\cup 3$, $1\cup 2$ and 1 appear in corresponding by τ , τ^2 , and τ^3 , respectively, inflated Fibonacci sequences. Finally the planes of type 5 are not part of the Fibonacci sequence, and lead to the three distances among the planes of *all* types, $\tau^{-1}\left(\frac{2}{\tau+2}\right)\textcircled{5}$, $\left(\frac{2}{\tau+2}\right)\textcircled{5}$ and $\tau\left(\frac{2}{\tau+2}\right)\textcircled{5}$. The planes of type 5 carry a low density of quasilattice points.

In the Katz–Gratias–de Boissieu–Elser model the scale is τ -times bigger than in $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ ⁸. The short edge has the length $\tau\textcircled{2}$ and the long edge $\tau^2\textcircled{2}$. For i-AlPdMn, the standard length is $\textcircled{5} = 4.56\text{\AA}$. Inserting it into the model the two spacings of the planes $1\cup 2\cup 3\cup 4$ become $\tau s \equiv L = \tau\left(\frac{2}{\tau+2}\right)\textcircled{5} = 4.08\text{\AA}$ and $\tau l \equiv H = \tau^2\left(\frac{2}{\tau+2}\right)\textcircled{5} = 6.60\text{\AA}$, in agreement with the measured step heights¹.

B. The layers of the Bergman polytopes related to the planes of the $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ tiling

In the 10 times inflated patch we find 20 sequences of 11 planes such that each sequence could correspond to the observed 11 terraces in the experiment¹ on the distances H H L H H L H L H H, see Figure 1. Let us take one of these sequences, the one from 182–197 and plot it along the sequence determined by the experiment, Figure 8.

In the sequence 182–197 there are 5 planes of type 5 that are not observed in the measurement. The biggest terrace observed in the experiment, denoted by No. 8¹ appears to correspond to the plane No. 192 of type 3 in the sequence. In our 20 sequences, on the position of the plane No. 8 there appears 16 times the plane of type 3, coded in the zone -3 , and 4 times of type 2, coded in the zone -2 . For all 20 sequences the first plane is of type 4, coded in the zone $+4$ by the interval $(\min(z_\perp), \max(z_\perp)) \sim (0.681, 0.825)$. The whole zone $+4$ is coded by the interval $(\tau^3 x/2, \tau^2 x/2) \sim (0.828, 0.521)$. The coding interval of the plane equivalent to terrace No. 8 is $(-0.434, -0.290) \subset (-\tau^2 x/2, -x/2)$.

So far we considered the points, edges and faces of the tiling in the sequence of planes orthogonal to a 5fold direction. Now we turn to the decoration by the Bergman clusters, as suggested by Elser⁵. The decoration of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ by the Bergman polytopes is performed as stated in Section III A and Ref.⁸. As a final result, related to the planes of type 1–5 orthogonal to a 5fold axes, there appear *layers* of Bergman polytopes. The edge of the Bergman polytope (dodecahedron) is $\tau^{-1}\textcircled{2} = 2.96\text{\AA}$ and

consequently the height of the dodecahedron, and the layers, is $\tau^2 \left(\frac{2}{\tau+2} \right) \textcircled{5} = 6.60 \text{Å}$. It equals the high spacing of the Fibonacci planes of type 1–4, $H = 6.60 \text{Å}$.

In Figure 9 all layers of Bergman polytopes with two opposite pentagonal faces orthogonal to a 5fold direction (z -axis) in a part of the 10-step inflation patch are presented. The part of the patch contains the planes No. 177–197, such that it includes the 11 planes from Figure 8. The length of horizontal lines in the rows (B1), (B2), (B3) represents the height of a Bergman dodecahedron, and their horizontal positions give the positions with respect to quasilattice planes. Horizontal lines to the right of a quasilattice plane denote Bergman polytopes hanging below the plane, horizontal lines to the left are Bergman polytopes standing on the plane.

In particular, (B1) are the layers of Bergman polytopes such that they are in between the planes of type $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 4$, hanging from one plane and standing on another. (B2) are the layers of Bergman polytopes hanging from some of the planes of type $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 4$ and eventually standing on a plane of type 5. (B3) are the layers of Bergman polytopes standing on some of the planes of type $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 4$ and eventually hanging on a plane of type 5. Hence the latter cannot be interpreted as situated below any of the planes of type $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 4$. The densities of all the layers, $\rho(B)$ ($\rho_b(B)$, $\rho_a(B)$) are written in the Figure 9 under the horizontal lines representing Bergman layers, see also Table 1. The layers of Bergman polytopes are “geared” to each other.

If we wish to interpret the observed terraces as the planes of the type 1–4 and consider the Bergman polytopes as the clusters⁵, then we relate to each terrace (plane) the layer of the Bergman polytopes *below* the plane, i.e. the layer of hanging Bergman clusters. These clusters touch with a pentagonal face a plane of quasilattice points from below. If that happens, the atomic position at the midpoint of the face is lowered with respect to the plane by 0.48Å , occupied by Al in the B_5 position of the model³. This face could appear as a dark hole in the STM experiment. The search for these pentagonal faces within the planes of type 1–4 is equivalent to the search for those Bergman clusters which hang below these planes (from the layers B1 and B2). Knowing the coding interval in the window for the terrace No. 8, $(-0.434, -0.290) \subset (-\tau^2 x/2, -x/2)$, one can, as shown in Ref.¹¹, compute the density of the corresponding hanging Bergman polytope layer.

Using this approach we find the density of the terrace No. 8 to be in the range of $5.72\text{--}8.62 \cdot 10^{-3}$ hanging Bergman clusters/ Å^2 .

As we already stated, the planes of type 1–4 are by their mutual distances in agreement with the terraces observed by STM¹. The planes of type 5 are not observed as terraces, probably due to the low densities of the quasilattice points in the planes. How is the appearance of the terraces related to the Bergman layers? Planes (terraces) appear to be correlated to 3 Bergman layers such

that one layer is above the plane, another below the plane and the third one is dissected by the plane. These planes are of type 1–4. For planes which appear correlated to only 2 Bergman layers such that w.r.t. the previous case either the layer above or below the plane is missing, do not appear. These planes are of type 5.

TABLE I. The densities of the quasilattice points q , $\rho(q)$ of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ in the planes No. 177–197 of the 10-times inflated patch. $\rho(q)$ is normalized w.r.t. planes coded by the decagonal prism in triacontahedron. The symbol η is the normalized z -coordinate in \mathbb{E}_\perp , $\eta = z/(\tau \textcircled{5})$, the coordinate of the plane-coding in the window for $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$, $\eta \in (-1, 1)$. $\rho_b(B)$ and $\rho_a(B)$ are respectively the densities of the Bergman-polytope layers below and above the planes w.r.t. the direction of the z -axis in \mathbb{E}_\parallel . $\rho(B)$ are normalized w.r.t. the layers with the maximal density, see¹¹, where the meaning of the expected sharp values 0 and 1 in the brackets is explained. The corresponding 11 terraces are situated between the planes 182–197 as in Figure 8.

Plane No.	Type	$\eta(q)$	$\rho(q)$	$\rho_b(B)$	$\rho_a(B)$
177	−1	−0.050	1.00	0.95	0.99
178	5	0.845	0.10	0.62	0.00 (0)
179	−4	−0.603	0.55	0.05	0.95
180	3	0.292	0.97	1.00 (1)	0.62
181	−2	−0.261	0.98	0.66	1.00 (1)
182	4	0.633	0.51	0.92	0.04
183	−5	−0.814	0.13	0.00 (0)	0.66
184	1	0.081	1.00	1.00	0.92
185	5	0.975	0.00	0.37	0.00 (0)
186	−4	−0.472	0.76	0.25	1.00
187	3	0.422	0.85	1.00 (1)	0.37
188	−1	−0.131	1.00	0.86	1.00
189	5	0.764	0.23	0.75	0.00 (0)
190	−4	−0.683	0.39	0.01	0.86
191	2	0.211	0.99	1.00 (1)	0.75
192	−3	−0.342	0.92	0.51	1.00 (1)
193	4	0.553	0.66	0.97	0.13
194	−5	−0.894	0.04	0.00 (0)	0.51
195	1	0.000	1.00	0.98	0.97
196	5	0.894	0.05	0.53	0.00 (0)
197	−4	−0.553	0.64	0.10	0.98

C. Interpretation of the pentagonal holes in the planes

The observed dark pentagonal holes¹ of the estimated height $7.17 \pm 0.08 \text{ \AA}$ are approximately τ times bigger than the pentagonal faces (face pentagons, see Figure 5) of the Bergman polytopes. The height of the Bergman face within the plane is 4.56 \AA . The observed pentagonal holes are as big as the pentagons on a parallel cut through five vertices of the dodecahedron with identical orientation, see Figure 5. Their height is 7.38 \AA . We call them top equatorial pentagons. Such a pentagonal cut through a Bergman cluster would again have a midpoint, in this case lowered by 0.78 \AA , occupied by Pd according to the model³. Such a pentagon could also appear as a hole. The planes in the tiling and in the patch which contain these top equatorial pentagons are shifted with respect to the former planes by $(\frac{2}{\tau+2})\textcircled{5} = 2.52 \text{ \AA}$. Tentatively we propose this alternative interpretation of the pentagonal holes in the planes. The identification of the pentagonal holes as top equatorial pentagons of Bergman polytopes is appealing because it readily explains the size of the pentagons. However, there is a disagreement with the separation of the two topmost layers determined in a LEED-IV analysis by Gierer et al.². They find a separation of 0.38 \AA , which is interpreted as a contracted bulk layer separation of 0.48 \AA . This value, in turn, would nicely fit the depth of the Bergman “faces”. Therefore, a clear-cut interpretation of the pentagons observed by STM is still lacking.

It is important to note that if we wish to relate the experimental data with the Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model, this implies in any case that the Bergman polytopes of height $\tau^2(\frac{2}{\tau+2})\textcircled{5} = 6.60 \text{ \AA}$ are cut by the terrace structure with a minimal layer separation of 4.22 \AA , see Figure 9.

The Mackay polytopes of Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model⁵ would also provide pentagonal holes. Their height would be 7.38 \AA , but they are much deeper (2.52 \AA), and Mn atoms on M_0 positions should be in the center³.

The lines analyzed in¹ in a fixed plane with pentagons (see Figure 2) can be understood in the model as follows: Take another 5fold axis at an angle α (see Figure 10), $\cos \alpha = \frac{\tau}{\tau+2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$ w.r.t. the fixed one (chosen as z-axes) and consider its set of planes of type $1 \cup 2 \cup 3$. These planes will intersect the fixed plane in parallel lines in Fibonacci spacing with distances N and W , where $N = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}H = 7.38 \text{ \AA}$ and $W = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}(L+H) = 11.94 \text{ \AA}$, $\sin \alpha = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}}$, see Figure 10. These distances compare well with the experiment¹.

From Figure 8 we see that the terrace No. 8, on which the Patterson distribution function of the pentagonal holes (Figs. 2 and 3) was determined¹, corresponds to the plane No. 192 in the sequence of planes No. 182–197 of the 10-times inflated patch.

In Figure 11 only those golden triangles of the plane No. 192 are presented, from which Bergman polytopes are hanging. They are hanging w.r.t. the positive direction of the z-axis of Figs. 8 and 9. These Bergman polytopes are placed between the planes No. 192 and 194, below 192 and above 194.

In Figure 12 we show the patterns of the top equatorial pentagons of Bergman polytopes in the planes No. 188, 190, 191, and 192.

These planes represent the terraces No. 5, 6, 7 and 8, respectively. The pentagons are oriented parallel to each other, both in a terrace and among the terraces, as observed in Ref.¹. Big fluctuations in the density of the Bergman polytopes in the layers is expected, see also Table 1.

In order to compare our model to the experimentally obtained results on the distribution of the dark pentagonal holes in the STM measurement, we calculate the Auto-Correlation Function (ACF) or Patterson function

$$A(\vec{r}) = \int_{\mathcal{F}} z_h(\vec{r}') z_h(\vec{r}' + \vec{r}) d^2 r',$$

where $\vec{r} = (x, y)$ and $z_h(\vec{r})$ denotes the hole image. The ACF for the distribution of the dark pentagons was calculated by digitizing plane No. 192 of the model in exactly the same manner as described in¹ by assigning the value 1 to those parts of the plane inside a pentagon and 0 otherwise. The resolution was also chosen to coincide with the one used in¹, namely 0.5 \AA per pixel. Numerically we obtained the ACF for plane No. 192 of size $764 \times 764 \text{ \AA}^2$. The layer below the plane No. 192 in the patch contains 3835 hanging Bergman polytopes and hence, the density of the pentagons in the plane Nr. 192 is $6.58 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ \AA}^{-2}$. With respect to noise in the STM images, local density fluctuations in small patches of a quasiperiodically decorated plane and freedom in the choice of the greyscale-level (which separates between black and white in the digitizing procedure of the STM-pattern) the estimated density on terrace No. 8 of $4.22 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ \AA}^{-2}$ can be considered to be in rather good agreement with that obtained from our model. The minimal distance between the pentagons is the short edge of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$. In the Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model it equals $\tau\textcircled{2} = r_{calc}(I') \approx 7.8 \text{ \AA}$. The mean distance for the pentagons in the plane No. 192 is calculated to 12.33 \AA .

In Figure 13 the resulting ACF is shown for a range of the displacement vectors of $\pm 100 \text{ \AA}$ in x and y directions. Labels on the first ten maxima are in correspondence with those of Figure 4 in Ref.¹ and Table 2. The calculated peak positions fit well to those obtained from the hole pattern extracted from STM measurement, see Figure 3 and Table 2.

TABLE II. Radii of the Patterson correlation maxima in Figure 3 r_{exp} and in Figure 13 r_{calc} .

$r[\text{\AA}]$	I'	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
<i>exp</i>		≈ 12	19.7	31.7	36.9	41.3	49.4	51.0	60.5	63.3	68.1
<i>calc</i>	7.8	12.6	20.3	32.9	38.6	43.7	50.7	53.2	62.5	65.7	66.7

IV. DISCUSSION

In this paper we have used the projection-tools related to the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$. We have refined the already known dissectability property^{7,9} of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ along the 5fold direction and have transferred this inherent property of the tiling into the layer structure of Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model.

In addition, we have generated a huge patch of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ by a highly non-trivial inflation procedure⁹ to linear dimensions of about 750 Å. It is large enough to reproduce all statistical predictions about densities from the projection method as well as to contain inflation symmetries (10th step of the inflation).

We do not consider the choice of the Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model as a significant restriction because most of the results derived above will also hold for models with approximately the same size of windows, as for example the model from Janot¹² that we have not yet considered. We have focused on the Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model because it is defined as a decoration of the tiling (primitive \mathcal{T}^P , or $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$) and all powerful tools known from the projection methods are applicable.

V. CONCLUSION

We prove that the experimentally observed succession of the step heights L (low) and H (high) along the 5fold axis (z-direction), which obeys the Fibonacci sequence, also exists in the patch of the geometric Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model. Additionally, we relate this sequence to another Fibonacci sequence of the distances N (narrow) and W (wide) between lines within the planes (x-y planes) of the terraces also found in experiments¹.

The estimated coding of the observed finite Fibonacci subsequence along the 5fold direction restricts the choice of planes in the model which have to be compared with the experimentally analysed terraces. Our model predicts big variations of the densities of quasilattice points (or equivalently pentagonal holes) among terraces which should be measurable in future high-quality STM images.

Our analysis shows that the Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model can be understood as being composed of “geared” layer of Bergman polytopes (Figure 9). We relate sequences of these layers of Bergman polytopes to the observed terraces and derive the patterns of pentagons within the terraces. We calculate the densities of Bergman clusters (Table 1) within the layers based on the knowledge of the window for the Bergman clusters¹¹ as well as using our huge patch (Figure 9). The calculated pentagon distribution yields a reasonable mean density and good agreement of the Patterson data (Figure 13, Table 2). The direct space patterns even reproduce some structures (white 5-stars) observed on the surface of the

terraces. Other features of the patterns (Figures 11 and 12) should be observable in future high-quality STM images. Hence, we predict more detailed criteria to judge from STM data whether the Katz-Gratias-de Boissieu-Elser model is realized or not.

If we assume that the surface of i-AlPdMn is not reconstructed w.r.t. the bulk, a fact that follows from the work of Gierer et al.², then the Bergman polytopes represent a correct geometric decoration, but they may not be considered as energetically stable clusters. This follows from the picture of “geared” layers of Bergman polytopes presented in Figure 9 which requires that Bergman clusters are cut in order to allow for the observed step heights (H and L). Further, from the alternating decoration with Bergman and Mackay polytopes of the primitive tiling⁵ one can also easily conclude that the same model cannot be interpreted as the Mackay-cluster model either. Therefore, the Bergman and Mackay clusters have to be considered as geometric building blocks of the quasicrystalline structure rather than as energetically stable entities.

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

FIG. 1. The terrace structure of the i-Al₆₈Pd₂₃Mn₉ mono-grain¹

FIG. 2. Atomic–scale structure within the terraces¹. Data taken on terrace No. 8 of Figure 1. The white 5–star is marked by an arrow.

FIG. 3. Patterson distribution function of the pentagonal holes on the terrace No. 8¹. The x and y axes extend from -100 \AA to $+100 \text{ \AA}$.

FIG. 4. The window of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ is a triacontahedron, the six tetrahedra are the tiles⁷. The symbols ⑤ and ② are the standard lengths defined in Section 2. 1

FIG. 5. The Bergman polytopes are typically hanging from the golden triangles Σ_2^* and Σ_3^* as the faces of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$. Pentagonal faces of the Bergman polytope (essentially a dodecahedron) and top equatorial pentagons, bigger by a factor τ , are marked.

FIG. 6. Window (triacontahedron) sliced into ten perpendicular zones orthogonal to a 5fold axis. The point zero is at the center of the triacontahedron. W.r.t. this point zero, the zones are denoted by $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 4$ and ± 5 .

FIG. 7. Examples in $\mathbb{E}_{||}$ of the planar sections orthogonal to the 5fold axis of the tiling $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$, such that the planes contain quasilattice points, the tiling vertices. Types 1–5 are coded in the window by the corresponding zones $\pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \pm 5$, see Figure 6. The golden triangles $\Sigma_{2||}^*$ and $\Sigma_{3||}^*$ define the structure of the planes of Type 1–4.

FIG. 8. In the 10–times inflated patch we find a sequence that corresponds to the 11 terraces observed by STM. The plot shows a histogram of Figure 1 (NODV = number of data values). The numbers and the types (zones) of the planes in the patch and the number of the corresponding terrace in the STM image (Figure 1) are indicated above the plot. Note that the planes of types ± 5 are not observed in the experiment.

FIG. 9. All layers of Bergman polytopes orthogonal to a 5fold direction (z –axis) in a part of the 10–step inflation patch containing the planes 177–197. The dotted intervals mark the relative distances between the planes and the height of the Bergman polytopes. The height of the Bergman polytope equals the length H , where $H = 6.60 \text{ \AA}$.

FIG. 10. Possible relation of the Fibonacci spacings of the planes (terraces) of type 1–3 with the Fibonacci spacings of the lines in the planes based on the $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ tiling.

FIG. 11. The representation of the terrace No. 8 by the plane No. 192 of the 10–times inflated $\mathcal{T}^{*(2F)}$ patch. Note the pentagonal faces or τ bigger top equatorial pentagons of Bergman polytopes, the lines on N and W distances (see Figure 10) and the white star of height $2W+N$. Compare to Figure 2.

FIG. 12. The representation of the terraces No. 5, 6, 7 and 8 by the planes No. 188, 190, 191 and 192 respectively. The content are the golden triangles and the top equatorial pentagons of Bergman polytopes.

FIG. 13. The Patterson distribution function (the correlation maxima) of the pentagonal holes in the plane Nr. 192. Compare to Figure 3.

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